THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

December, 2021 Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall has arrived, and so too have some of our winter visitors. I was excited to hear and see my first-of-season White-throated Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets last week. As we welcome our winter migrants back for the season, I am reminded on the many conservation efforts that are being discussed. I would like to thank our Conservation and Policy Committee co-chairs, Dick Preston and Melinda Welton, for their long-standing work to bring issues to the attention of TOS. First, the **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** proposes to allocate $1.4 billion annually to states and $26 million to Tennessee. The Act is a bipartisan bill that would raise money through royalties from energy and mineral companies on federal land. At least 15% of the money would be allocated to help recover threatened and endangered species. Please contact your senators and representative to voice your support for this act. Second, leaders from around the world will meet in early November at the Climate Change Summit in Glasgow. Although the US and the world have made progress towards reducing the emission of greenhouse gasses, actual reductions have not equaled the promises, and even the promises are not sufficient to keep temperature increases below 1.5 C. Again, I urge TOS members to contact their senators and representative to voice support for climate change policies.

Closer to home, our fall 2021 BOD meeting was held virtually on October 4th. **Memphis will host the TOS Spring Meeting April 22nd – 24th.** My local chapter is looking forward to having TOS members from around the state join us for a weekend of birding, fun, and friendship.

I wish all of you a peaceful and enjoyable holiday season,

Michael Collins
President, TOS

2022 TOS SPRING STATE MEETING MEMPHIS, TENNEESSEE, APRIL 22 – 24, 2022

The Memphis chapter invites all TOS members to the Spring Meeting, to be held April 22 – 24, 2022. Friday night registration, the Board of Director's meeting on Saturday, and Saturday dinner and program will all be held in the conference room immediately adjacent to the hotel.

The meeting hotel is the Plantation Oaks Suites and Inn, 6656 Hwy 51N. From I-40, take exit 24B. Go 16 miles to Hwy 51. Go left on Hwy 51 for 2.2 miles. The hotel will be on the left. A block of rooms is being held for us at a rate of $74.95 per night, king or double beds. A light breakfast is available beginning at 6 AM. Reservations: 901-872-8000, 901-872-8802 or 888-422-1459. Email: jaime.plantationoaks@gmail.com or plantationoaksmillington@gmail.com. Fax: 901-872-1000.

All field trips will depart from the hotel. Saturday destinations will include: Shelby Forest, Shelby Farms (and the Mid-South Raptor Center) and Ensley Bottoms, aka "the pits." Sunday will feature a trip to Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is just three miles from exit 56 off I-40, making it most convenient for those heading back east.

Our speaker Saturday night will be Dawn Hewitt, editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Please send your registration to MTOS by April 1st. Registration is $10 and Saturday dinner (buffet) and speaker is $22. For additional information, contact Clifford VanNostrand (birdinginthe901@gmail.com) or Dick Preston (dickpreston48@gmail.com).

TOS SPRING MEETING 2022 REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address_____

TOS Chapter_____

$ _____for _____ Registration(s) @ $10 each

$ _____for _____ Dinner Reservation(s) @ $25 each

$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed. Please make check payable to MTOS.

Mail registration form and check to MTOS Treasurer:

Barbara Pyles
8488 E Askersund Cv
Cordova, TN 38018-6836

If you mail form after 4/01/22, email brbpyles@gmail.com with your names so that we order enough dinners.

See you there!

Clifford VanNostrand
MTOS President

Guidelines for Tennessee Ornithological Society 2022 Conservation and Research Grants

The Tennessee Ornithological Society invites applications for Conservation and Research Grants to support projects that will directly or indirectly help to protect the birds of Tennessee, increase scientific knowledge, or educate others about the importance of Tennessee's birds. A total of $6,000 is available to be awarded for the grants, which may be divided among multiple recipients.

Anyone with a bird-related project, including students, professionals, and individual workers, may compete for a grant. The project may already be in progress at the time of application. Applicants should submit a project proposal using the form that is available on the TOS Website (http://www.tnbirds.org/downloads/GRANT_FORM.doc). Needed information includes: name, address, telephone, E-mail address, topic, problem to be addressed, objectives, expected results and significance, project location, beginning and ending dates, estimated field time, estimated total cost of project, itemized budget, funds available from other sources, how grant is to be used, experience of applicant in the project area, willingness of applicant to share results at a statewide TOS meeting, and whether the work is under the guidance of a mentor or is independent.

A letter of recommendation from a mentor or a knowledgeable associate is strongly encouraged. Up to $50 of a grant may be applied toward the costs of attending an appropriate scientific meeting to present results of the project.

Criteria for judging applications include:
— Significance of problem addressed
— Clarity of proposal
— Adequacy of project design
— Adequacy of experience/training
— Adequacy of professional guidance
— Financial need
— Chance for achieving objectives
— Potential benefit to the species/resource
— Potential for advancing career/studies
— Potential for sharing results at a future statewide TOS meeting

The application and letter of recommendation should be emailed (preferably) or mailed to Michael Collins, Department of Biology, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN 38112; collinsm@rhodes.edu; (901) 843-3557. The deadline for receipt of applications is February 1. Applicants will be notified of the Committee's decisions in early March. All grant awards will be announced in *The Tennessee Warbler.*

Respectfully,

Michael Collins

TOS Conservation and Research Funding Committee Chair

CONSERVATION POLICY COMMITTEE

The "Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021" is moving through both the Senate (S.2372) and the U. S. House of Representatives (H.R. 2773). Our legislators need to hear your opinion now. Please see the action alert for details on these companion bills and how to contact your members of Congress on page 5.

Forage fish are comprised of many species of small fish, such as herring, anchovies, smelts and Capelin. These fish are central to the ocean food web. Unfortunately, many of these species are in serious decline, primarily from over harvesting. Today there are 300 million fewer seabirds than there were in 1950, a population decline of 70%. Seabirds rely on stocks of forage fish as their primary food source, but they often can't find enough to eat. Many species of seabirds, like Atlantic Puffin and Northern Gannet are forced to fly ever further from their nest sites to locate schools of these fish, leading to nest failure. The "Forage Fish Conservation Act of 2021" would address the decline in these critical fish stocks, to the benefit of seabirds and marine mammals alike. The bill was introduced in the Senate in April (S.1484), and in late October in the U. S. House of Representatives (H.R. 2236). Please consider contacting our members of Congress and urge them to co-sponsor these bills. Details may be found at the following sites:

Senate: www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1484.

House: www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2236.

Comments were submitted on the draft Air Tour Management Plan (ATMP) for Great Smoky Mountain National Park. The ATMP will govern commercial helicopter sightseeing flights over the park. While we found most of the restrictions in the ATMP agreeable, we had questions on the number of flights permitted and the potential effects on visitor experience and wildlife. The full text of the comments is posted on our website.

Committee Members:
Laura Cook, Ashley Heeney, Dick Preston (co-chair), Cyndi Routledge, Melinda Welton (co-chair), Dev Joslin: Advisor

GONE – OUR EXTINCT BIRDS

It was inevitable, and we figured it would be announced sooner or later, but to hear it made "official" is certainly a reality-check. In September, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the removal of 23 species from the Endangered Species List, not because they were saved or clearly on the road to recovery, but because they were deemed officially extinct. Among these 23 species were 11 species of birds, including Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Bachman's Warbler and eight unique Hawaiian bird species.

You can find details here: https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=u.s.-fish-and-wildlife-service-proposes-delisting-23-species-from-&_ID=37017.

Source: Birding Community E-Bulletin.

You can access all the past E-Bulletins on the National Wildlife Refuge Association website:
www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin.

ACTION ALERT DECEMBER 2021

"A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes" has been introduced in both the U. S. House of Representatives (HR – 2773) and the U. S. Senate (S.2372). The bill is known by its short title "Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021." The Senate version currently has 32 co-sponsors (16 Republicans, 15 Democrats and 1 Independent), while the House version currently has 132 co-sponsors (101 Democrats and 31 Republicans). Co-sponsor lists are current as of 6 November.

The Act would provide 1.3 billion dollars annually to state fish and wildlife agencies and an additional 97.5 million dollars annually to Indian Tribal fish and wildlife agencies. Under the Act, The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will receive substantial funding.

Representatives Charles Fleischmann (R-TN 3), Jim Cooper (D-TN-5), David Kustoff (R-TN 8) and Steve Cohen (D-TN-9) are co-sponsors. If not already a co-sponsor, please consider contacting your representative and urge him or her to sign on as a co-sponsor. Representatives Fleischmann, Cooper, Kustoff and Cohen deserve our thanks.

Senator Bill Hagerty has signed on as a co-sponsor. He deserves our thanks. Please consider contacting our other Senator, Marsha Blackburn,urge her to sign on as a co-sponsor.

www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2773.

www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2372.

Conservation Policy Committee – October 11, 2021

Laura Cook, Ashley Heeney, Dev Joslin (special advisor), Dick Preston (co-chair), Cyndi Routledge and Melinda Welton (co-chair).

MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT PROTECTIONS RESTORED

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has overturned the rule that eliminated critical protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Along with protecting birds from industrial hazards, the agency began a process to strengthen the rules to create further incentives for companies to adopt measures to prevent bird deaths.

The previous administration had implemented a change that limited the MBTA's protections to only activities that purposefully kill birds, exempting all industrial hazards from enforcement. Any "incidental" deaths – no matter how inevitable, avoidable or devastating to birds – became immune from enforcement under the law.

Source: National Audubon Society.

www.audubon.org.

SOUTHEASTERN AVIAN RESEARCH 2021 SEASON RECAP

September 21, 2021 was officially the last day of summer and it was also Southeastern Avian Research's last day of hummingbird fall migration banding for the 2021 season. It was a season of ongoing challenges due to COVID. All our festivals were cancelled and certain host locations were not visited for health and safety reasons. But regardless, I managed to continue my research and band 1816 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, plus one adult male Rufous Hummingbird in Paris, TN on September 15th. I personally reached a banding milestone this season. I can now say I've banded over 12,100 hummingbirds since receiving my Master Hummingbird Permit in October of 2014!

I had a few fun surprises this season. During breeding season, I was alerted to a hummingbird nest built on a battery-operated light hanging in a porch alcove. I was able to get pictures of nest, eggs, momma incubating, the babies and ultimately see them successfully fledge. I had three reports of lucistic hummingbirds. One left prior to my arranging to get there. Another evaded my trap for 4 hours (we caught 52 Ruby-throated). The third was caught after a bit of a wait and I was able to band this hatch-year male. A week later he showed up across town at another home (8 miles NE) where I verified it was indeed the same bird. The adult male Rufous Hummingbird in Paris was another early winter hummer surprise, and that banding set us up for future bandings at this high hummer-volume home. The best surprise of the season, by far, was the return of the Allen's Hummingbird to Fayetteville, TN on August 15, 2021. I verified it is indeed the same hummingbird I banded there on a frosty morning in December of 2020. I am currently monitoring this bird and working on publishing a paper since his migration journey was much more than just a there and back.

This season I also welcomed two new crew members to SEAR and I continued to train our own Dr. Michael Collins to band hummingbirds. Michael and I share a deep appreciation for those who helped us and others along the way, so it is a natural fit and great opportunity to share Bob and Martha Sargent's hummingbird legacy with another enthusiastic bander.

Finally, SEAR could not conduct this research without my hummingbird hosts and volunteers. My hosts generously open their yards and homes to me multiple times a season, maintain feeders with the utmost care, help me spread the word about no red nectar and hummingbird research. My volunteers and I travel many miles together over a season, getting up at o'dark thirty to get to our research stations, we play weather roulette, shiver together on cold mornings and sweat it out on those hot humid days, but they are always there with a smile and helping hands. The support and hard work of both hosts and volunteers is priceless, and I can't thank them all enough!

So onward to winter hummingbirds…we'll see what surprises and what species show up this winter season. Consider leaving out a feeder and becoming part of this important research. If you have any questions, holler at me – routleges@bellsouth.net

Happy hummingbirds!

Cyndi Routledge

Southeastern Avian Research Winter Hummingbird Research

Have you ever spotted a hummingbird at your feeder after 1 November or before 15 March?

Since November 1990, 315+ hummingbirds of 7 different species have been captured, banded and released here in Tennessee as part of a winter banding research program.

Please consider leaving out your feeder out year-round. Keep it clean, maintained and easily viewed and you might be one of the lucky ones to host a winter hummingbird.

If you do get a hummingbird, I Want to Hear From You…Cyndi Routledge – routledges@bellsouth.net

Fall Bird Count Data Due Now

Fall bird count data are due as soon as possible to allow me to get my report in to the editor of *The Migrant* in a timely fashion. Besides the actual count data, please be sure to include the following effort data:

1 - Hours and miles by car, foot, and any nightbirding

2 - Number of observers and parties

3 - Any feeder watching hours & names

4 - Start and end times for the count

5 - Weather data for the count

6 - Names of all the participants

Compilers: please try to use a bird checklist that is based on somewhat recent taxonomy. This greatly speeds up my job compiling these reports. Our TOS field cards are being updated and should contain the latest taxonomy.

If you do not have a local compiler, you can send the data directly to me at the address/email below.

TOS appreciates your efforts to record and track our bird populations and abundance. Thanks for helping us to archive this data for future generations and researchers. It is important.

Ron Hoff • TOS State Count Compiler
166 Chahyga Way • Loudon, TN 37774 • 865-567-9679
webe2brdrs@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 28TH DEADLINE

The deadline date for the April issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is February 28th. Please submit all articles, announcements, reports and items of interest by this deadline date.

Submit Material To:
Theresa Graham, Editor
PO Box 366, Oakland TN 38060
(901) 489-0795
e-mail: 2graham@bellsouth.net

Memories of Dr. Terry Witt

by Chad Smith

I met Dr. Terry Witt at Discovery Center in Murfreesboro more than a decade ago. It was springtime, he was walking around with binoculars, and so naturally we ended up talking about birds. Soon after, he invited me to ride around with him to other birding locations. It didn't take long for me to realize that I was a novice. This guy knew where to find everything and I was fascinated that he could recognize birds by song. Over the next few years, I got quite a birding education. We drove from one side of the state to the other, and he enjoyed helping me find birds as much as I enjoyed adding them to my growing list. I'll always remember stomping through fields in middle Tennessee, walking trails in the Smokies, and scoping lakes in the winter. I can close my eyes right now and smell "The Pits". I remember fist bumps when we succeeded in turning up great birds, the long ride home when we 'missed' a bird and the thrill of seeing a hard-to-find species for the first time. I remember my first Painted Bunting, Least Bittern, Connecticut Warbler, Hooded Crane, and so many others. By the time we were birding together not much was 'new' for Terry, but when you birded with Terry it was like he was seeing the bird for the first time through you. I was always thrilled when I helped him add a state bird. The last one of those we got together was at TVA Lake. Jeff Wilson showed us a Neotropic Cormorant. I still cherish the memory of that day, standing next to those two guys. Sadly, Jeff died not long after that day.

Terry enjoyed sharing his birding experiences and inquiring about those of others. Whether he was adding to what he'd seen in Tennessee, Florida, the ABA Area, another country, or the world, he pursued birds with unbridled determination. He birded every continent and had some grand stories to tell. At one point, he was #33 on the list of people who have seen the most birds in the world. I believe he was proud of that fact. He knew all the "famous" birders. But to spite all that, he was loved being a teacher and mentor to new birders. When a young Chloe and Nolan Walker showed an interest in birding, he helped show them the hotspots in Rutherford County and took them birding whenever he could. He got his neighbor and friend Bob Ingle hooked on birding. Terry was always happy to invite people along to TOS meetings, take beginners out birding, and pass along everything he could.

Terry was passionate about many things besides birds. He loved his long career as a health care provider. I used to joke with him that he'd delivered half the babies in Murfreesboro, and I don't believe it was a big exaggeration since he'd been doing it for 40 years. He loved bowling, fishing, fossil hunting, herpetology, fish aquaria, and travel. He loved sports and had a keen competitive streak. He was a huge supporter of the MTSU Blue Raiders. He loved his greyhound dogs, to read and watch documentaries. He laughed a lot. He was very close to his family whom he adored and they him.

Several years ago, Terry retired and moved from Tennessee to Florida, where he chased every bird possible while continuing to enjoy his other hobbies and spend time with his wife, son, daughters and grandkids. Three years ago, he was rushed to the hospital where they discovered cancer in his brain. He fought valiantly and returned to doing all the things he loved, but ultimately the cancer won. He died peacefully surrounded by his loving family on August 8, 2021. He was 77 years old.

I am very grateful to have been a small part of a life well lived. I enjoyed all those long rides, and all the birds we found together. It was always an exciting adventure when we were going to hit the road and try to find something new. It was always great to travel with him. I'll miss him, but my memories and the lessons he taught me will last a lifetime.

CHAPTER NEWS

BIRDING KINGSPORT hosted our popular annual Bird Walks in conjunction with our local community summer festival, Kingsport Fun Fest, in July. We had three bird walks at different locations with a total of 104 people attending over the course of the walks. We also distributed the "Discover Birds" Activity Book to all youth who attended.

In addition to the Fun Fest walks, we have also enjoyed bird walks at different sites on the Kingsport Greenbelt in August and October.

This Fall we have continued with outdoor meetings and have invested in a projector so that we can better host events and programs in different locations. At our September meeting, we had a wonderful presentation by Rosanne Haaland on "Nature Journaling and Birding". A talented artist and photographer, Rosanne shared with us a history of nature journaling, as well as great ideas of how to incorporate journaling with birding. In October, Larry McDaniel presented a program on "Moths at Home and on Roan Mountain" with great photographs and descriptions of local moths.

Information on Birding Kingsport can be found at www.birdingkingsport.org.

Happy Birding!
Helen Sirett, President

The **BRISTOL CHAPTER** (BBC) has been busy this summer and through the migration season. Unfortunately, we are still holding our monthly meetings on Zoom, but hope to find a location for in-person meetings soon, with Zoom as an off-location option.

BBC partnered with the High-Country Audubon Society of Boone, NC for a field trip to Roan Mountain on July 24 for some high elevation birding. Eight members total from both organizations joined the walk and found some great birds such as Alder Flycatchers, Red Crossbills, Common Ravens, Red-breasted Nuthatches, plus a great variety of high elevation warblers.

On Saturday, August 22, twelve participants met at Whitetop Mountain in southwest Virginia for a great outing. We checked out the top of the mountain for birds first, then most members walked a portion of the Appalachian Trail (AT) for some more high elevation forest birding. Whitetop offers a variety of habitats and is a great place to check out, especially in late summer when the weather there is a little cooler than the valleys.

The BBC Chapter also partnered with Friends of Steele Creek to help host Wildlife Weekend on October 8-9. Members of BBC hosted bird walks, with education for new birders first and foremost. We also hosted a bird banding station which is always exciting.

One of the highlights of the year was migration walks at Jacob's Nature Park in early October. We held six informal walks looking for migrating warblers and were never disappointed. This location is famous for warbler sightings, especially during the migration seasons.

Bristol Birds will host its annual picnic at Steele Creek Park in late October. Bird counts will be held in Bristol, Shady Valley, and Glade Springs (both TN and VA) in late December and early January.

Debi Campbell, Secretary

CHAPTER NEWS

It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of two **HIGHLAND RIM CHAPER** members: Kenneth Huber and Joyce Adams.

Kenneth Miles Huber, 82 of Winchester, TN passed away Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at Southern TN Skilled Care Center. A native of Franklin County, born in Winchester, TN to the late Charles Jacob Huber and Essie Huber on July27, 1939. He graduated from Franklin County High School in 1957 where he was a member of the Rebel football team that went undefeated in 1956 and won the Butter Bowl in Pulaski, TN that year. He was a member of the Winchester Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Highland Rim Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. He was an avid sports fan, especially for University of Tennessee Volunteers and the Tennessee Titans. He could always find a game on TV that he enjoyed watching. He had a love for living on the lake, fishing, gardening, maintaining his lawn and birding. He worked for Arnold Engineering Development Center before owning and operating Huber Paint and Wallpaper Store in Winchester for several years. He later returned to the center where he stayed until he retired in 2001.

Kenneth was a kind, easy going guy. His presence at our meetings will be missed. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

Joyce Page Adams, age 88 of Winchester, passed away on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at her residence surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Lancaster, Tennessee on October 29, 1932, to the late Charlie Haskell and Hattie Nell (Winnard) Page. In 1941 the Pages moved to Smithville, and she spent her childhood as one of nine siblings on the family farm.

At the age of 19, Joyce started her career in education, teaching eight grades in a one room schoolhouse, while completing her B.S. degree in Elementary Education at Middle Tennessee State. While at college, she met her sweetheart, Dwain, and they married in 1955. After graduation they both taught high school for a year in Lawrence County, Alabama, until Dwain's career took them to Maryland in 1956. There they started their family, spending many joyous days on the Chesapeake Bay.

Joyce and Dwain moved back to Tennessee from Maryland after their retirement in 1989 and settled in Winchester. In retirement, Joyce stayed very busy within the community. She brought her special style of organization and enthusiasm to each group in which she participated. She was a longtime member of the Franklin County Arts Guild, member of the Highland Rim Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society, member of the Family Community Education of Belvidere, volunteer for the National Active and Retired Federal Employees organization, and a member of Harmony Cumberland Presbyterian Church. A nature enthusiast, Joyce enjoyed birdwatching and being near (or on) the water. Joyce will be remembered for touching the lives of so many with her playful spirit, motivating words, and kind deeds.

Joyce always made time to go around the room to speak with every member and guest individually at our monthly meetings. She was truly interested in each one of us. She was fun and full of life. She entertained us with many Dwain and Joyce stories, which we will cherish forever.

Our beloved Joyce will be greatly missed. May her memory be a blessing to us all.

Janie Denis, Secretary

CHAPTER NEWS

The **KNOXVILLE CHAPTER** has continued with virtual Zoom meetings as well as some in-person meetings and events. New members are joining the East Tennessee Birding Facebook group and attending programs throughout the area.

On September 1, we held a potluck dinner at Lakeshore Park which had a good turnout. KTOS has increased the number of programs offered to new and existing members. From July 1 to October 17, there have been approximately 18 meetings, programs, or events on the KTOS calendar. The group has started to offer birding walks for new members to do some birding with other new members. Some of the walks have taken place at Norris Dam and Lakeshore Park. KTOS had an information table at the McClung Museum of Natural History's Family Fun Day on Labor Day weekend. Young birders and their families learned about birdwatching, feeding backyard birds, migration, and making fun crafts. On September 23, some members participated in a Hawk Watch on the Foothills Parkway. The birding at Seven Islands State Birding Park continues to be good as Fall migrants are starting to appear in the park. The October monthly meeting was held at the McClung Museum on UT's campus, and members were able to view the beautiful bird artwork of Elizabeth Gould in the current exhibit.

Membership has been booming and more young birders are flocking to the group. Attendance does fluctuate some as COVID cases constantly rise and fall.

Stephanie Mueller, Secretary

In spite of the surge in COVID in Tennessee this spring, the **NASHVILLE CHAPTER** continued to hold in-person meetings and field trips using the CDC protocol we've all come to know so well. Our membership also continued to grow with an average of 1-2 new birders per month. Many thanks to Susie Russenberger for all the wonderful programs and to Mike Smith for arranging our field trips. We appreciate all your efforts to keep our chapter members engaged and entertained.

We held our fall migration count on September 25th. As always, our thanks to Barbara Harris for coordinating, to Scott Block for compiling, to our area leaders for coordinating your counters and to all those who participated. Barbara reported there were many new folks who came out to count this fall, some for a first time count ever. We love hearing that!

We also held our annual fall Wednesday morning migration walks at Radnor Lake State Park in late September and early October. These four walks were well attended as usual, and the birds didn't disappoint either. Many thanks to Hugh Barger, Pam Lasley, Andy Lantz, Joe Hall and Tammy Devine for your volunteer spirit; leading these walks and keeping the bird lists. Our spring migration walks will begin on April 20, 2022 and conclude on May 11th. We hope you'll join us if you're in the area.

We wrapped up our joint Window Strike Conservation initiative project with Metro Parks in October. It was a long 4+ year project full of stops and starts, delays from human to suppliers plus a bit of unexpected administrative paperwork, but Shelby Bottoms Nature Center's window are now fitted with no less than 10 different products designed to prevent birds from flying into them. The best news is that, after all this effort, the products are working! Window collisions have dropped to near zero at the center. Many thanks to all who worked on this project through the years and to NTOS members who contributed to our dedicated fundraiser that helped make this project a reality. If you're in Nashville drop by the Nature Center and have a look. Perhaps it'll help you personally, or you might want to tackle a joint project in a nature center near you.

On October 22, 2021, the State of Tennessee dedicated the new visitor's center at Cummins Falls to long-time NTOS member Mack Prichard. Mack's career with the State of TN spanned over 50 years; working first as the TN State Archaeologist and then as State Naturalist. Due to COVID, friends and family were not able to gather to celebrate Mack's life after he died in April of 2020, so the event also included a Celebration of Life for him prior to the dedication. In addition, The Mack S. Prichard Foundation also awarded two $1000 scholarships. One to Hayley Reed, an intern at Cummins Fall State Park, and a second scholarship to Caroline Holmes, a seasonal interpretive ranger at South Cumberland State Park. Both of these women engage in activities to protect, conserve and educate people about Tennessee's natural environment, the words and deeds Mack lived his life by.

Cyndi Routledge, NTOS President

CHAPTER NEWS

Members of the **LEE & LOIS HERNDON CHAPTER** of TOS, also known as the Elizabethton Bird Club, have felt some losses over the past several months.

Elizabeth Fahey Hinshaw, a member of the chapter since 1997, died Feb. 4, 2021, at age 96. Her daughter, Jacki, also a chapter member, said her mother was an avid birder when younger. "Along with my father, she introduced me to birding at a very young age," Jacki said. In her last years, Elizabeth loved to bird out the living room window, counting the birds at our feeders. She participated in Project Feeder Watch, proud to send in her sightings. According to Jacki, her mother also loved the Blue Ridge Parkway and long rides in the country.

Chapter member Gilbert Derouen, 90, died April 10, 2021. Gil and his wife, Marinel, were also long-time and gracious hosts for the chapter's annual Christmas party and Christmas Bird Count compilation. Sadly, Marinel Derouen died a few months after her husband, on Aug. 7, 2021, at age 89.

Glen Eller died Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021, at age 80. Glen endured many health struggles in his lifetime, but all with a positive attitude and a remarkable spirit. He was a long-time, dedicated member of the chapter and a very knowledgeable birder.

Brenda Wallace, the wife of long-time chapter member Dr. Gary Wallace, died Sunday, Sept. 5, at age 77, after a lengthy battle with pulmonary fibrosis. One birding experience the couple shared while still residing in Elizabethton, Tennessee, was the hosting of a wintering Rufous Hummingbird at their home. The bird was banded by Bob and Martha Sargent of the The Hummer/Bird Study Group.

The chapter also celebrated some good news when two long-time club members — Rick Knight and Jacki Hinshaw — tied the knot. The couple married May 15, 2021, on the grounds of the Currituck Lighthouse on the Outer Banks in Corolla, North Carolina.

The chapter is getting ready to publish its annual calendar. The project is the major fundraiser for the chapter. Calendars feature bird photographs taken by members of the chapter. The calendars sell for $15, plus $2 for postage and handling for those needing a calendar mailed to them. This year's cover features a beautiful photograph of a Chestnut-sided Warbler among spring blossoms taken by Charles Warden. Anyone interested in the purchase of a calendar can email Bryan Stevens at ahoodedwarbler@aol.com for more information.

This year's Fall Bird Count for Northeast Tennessee tallied 129 species, which is slightly above the recent 30-year average of 125 species. Chapter members and friends of the chapter covered Carter County, as well as parts of adjacent Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington counties. The all-time high for the Fall Bird Count was reached in 1993 when 137 species were tallied.

Chapter members are looking forward to the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts. The chapter conducts a CBC for Elizabethton and Roan Mountain.

Bryan Stevens, Editor

Send corrections & Change of Address Requests To:
plasley@comcast.net

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